

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/642,617

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

Applicant(s)

PLATT, DAVID

Art Unit

2136

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination filed on 9/5/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-10, 14-18, 20-23, 27-28; Renumbered as 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

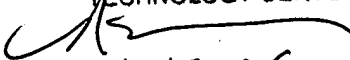
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

NASSER MOAZZAMI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

  
11/10/06

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

2. Applicant's submission filed on September 05, 2006 has been entered and made of record.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 8/08/2006 with respect to pending amended claims have been fully considered and in view of the interview held on 11/06/2006, are persuasive.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 10, 14 – 18, 20 – 23, 27 – 28 are allowed and renumbered as 1 – 20.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Admitted prior art Vicard U.S. Patent 5,764,761, disclose a lock circuitry that controls operational enablement of a functional block of a first integrated circuit device (chip). Vicard further discloses that to unlock the lock circuitry, a "chip-key" must be supplied to the chip.

However, the admitted prior arts taken independently or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest "A computer implemented method for providing access between a first party and a second party, said method comprising the steps of: generating a challenge value using a disk drive controller at said first party; transmitting said challenge value to said second party; generating, using a secure hash algorithm, a response value using a combination of a lock value and said challenge value at said second party; wherein said lock value indicates a desired access mode; transmitting said response value to said first party; wherein said disk controller receives the challenge and lock value; and validate said response value by said first party, wherein said validating step further comprises: computing a duplicate response value on said disk drive controller by performing a duplicate secure hash algorithm; comparing said response value to said duplicate response value; granting said second party access to the first party in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response and duplicate response values match."

The present invention provides drive/host locking system that allows only authorized users to have access to the drive system, wherein a security feature is provided that uses challenge/response value a publicly positioned system for a user to

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provide authorizing data using a public input means, including a visual interface and a telephone interface of the publicly positioned device wherein the user is prompted to enter a combination of authorizing data and the device generated data and the user-provided authorizing data is extracted from the user input and used to authorize the user.

Thus, the present invention further provides an apparatus and methodology for shielding knowledge of a user-identifier from unauthorized viewers.

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with Kirk D. Wong, registration number 43,284, on November 06, 2006.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A computer implemented method for providing access between a first party and a second party, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a challenge value using a disk drive controller at said first party;

transmitting said challenge value to said second party;

generating, using a secure hash algorithm, a response value using a combination of a lock value and said challenge value at said second party;

wherein said lock value indicates a desired access mode;

transmitting said response value to said first party; wherein said disk controller receives the challenge and lock value; and

validate said response value by said first party, wherein said validating step further comprises:

computing a duplicate response value on said disk drive controller by performing a duplicate secure hash algorithm;

comparing said response value to said duplicate response value;

granting said second party access to the first party in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response and duplicate response values match.

6. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Cancelled)

14. (Amended) An apparatus for providing access between a first party and a second party, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating a challenge value using a disk drive controller at said first party;

means for transmitting said challenge value to said second party;

means for generating, using a secure hash algorithm, a response value using a combination of a lock value and said challenge value at said second party;

wherein said lock value indicates a desired access mode;

means for transmitting said response value to said first party; wherein said disk controller receives the challenge and lock value; and

means for validate said response value by said first party, wherein said validating step further comprises:

means for computing a duplicate response value on said disk drive controller by performing a duplicate secure hash algorithm;

means for comparing said response value to said duplicate response value;

means for granting said second party access to the first party in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response and duplicate response values match.

19. (Cancelled)

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24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~45~~ 16, wherein said means for ~~validating said response value~~ granting said second party access to the first party further includes:

means for unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicating by the lock value if the response value is valid.

28. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~4~~ 3, , wherein ~~validating said response value~~ granting said second party access to the first party further includes:

unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicating by the lock value if the response value is valid.

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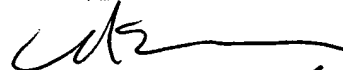
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-232-4195. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy

November 06, 2006.

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